

English proficient students uniquely tailored to their individual needs.

It is my great privilege to recognize Mr. Dale Brown today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for his excellent work in public education. His dedication to the Warren County School District is felt by students, teachers, and administrators alike. He is an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

THE VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTINGS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise today to express my deepest sympathy to everyone in the Virginia Tech community, and to all of their shocked and grieving loved ones. I know I also join millions around the nation who are at a loss to fully comprehend yesterday's shootings on the Virginia Tech campus that took 33 lives, including the shooter. I also pray for the quick and full recovery of all those who were injured.

I am also profoundly saddened to learn that Daniel O'Neil, of Lincoln, RI, was a victim of yesterday's shootings. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

Madam Speaker, every life that was lost yesterday was taken too early. Every life taken had a history, a family and dreams for the future. In the coming days, these lives will be identified, and we will hear many terrible stories about what happened in those buildings. We will also hear about heroic acts in the face of unimaginable terror. As a nation, we must find solace in each other and reach out to those that need us the most.

As long as I have been in public service, I have tried to answer the question, "how can we make our country safer than it is right now?" Unfortunately, yesterday's events showed us all how much work needs to be done. While many questions remain, we do know that yesterday marked the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. I believe it is our job in Congress to make sure an incident like this never happens again. As we await the findings of the investigation, we must look to our laws and security procedures to make sure that they are protecting our citizens. I also hope we can learn from this tragedy will spur a national discussion on how we can reduce gun violence.

Today, let us reflect on the lives we have so senselessly and tragically lost. May we keep them and their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers, and may their memory live on forever.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res.

273—Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

Have you seen the headlines recently? Only yesterday, it was reported that mortgage defaults are at an all time high in California. According to one report, 46,760 borrowers defaulted between January and March. That's an increase of 23.1 percent relative to the previous quarter, and 148 percent compared with the same period a year ago.

In another story, I read that foreclosures of homes in California were 11,033 in the first quarter. That's an 81.5 percent increase over last quarter.

I'm concerned about the effect that this is having on families in my home state. I'm also concerned about the effect that this is having on the economy of the nation as a whole.

While it is impossible to say that this crisis could have been avoided, we can certainly do more to shield consumers from its worst effects. One of those ways is to promote greater financial literacy.

This bill, H. Res. 273, is an important tool for increasing awareness, and points the way forward toward creating greater financial literacy in our communities.

The potential benefits of greater financial literacy are almost incalculable. We can be sure that greater awareness and understanding of finances will lead to higher savings rates. It will allow consumers to gain access to less expensive and less risky loans. And it will protect people from getting into a precarious financial situation without their understanding the consequences.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and for us to join together to not only promote the goals of financial literacy, but also, to make them a reality.

TRIBUTE TO THE FILM SCHOOL OF SAN ANTONIO

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of The Film School of San Antonio, a magnet program on the campus of Harlandale High School in the Harlandale Independent School District of San Antonio, Texas.

Utilizing a rigorous, sequential and customized curriculum, the Film School of San Antonio provides first hand experience in the collaborative arts of filmmaking, screenwriting, animation and drama. Additionally, the film school prepares students for job opportunities, scholarships and college admissions. With a strong foundation in media, students also compete in national contests and film festivals.

The Film School of San Antonio and its students have earned a wealth of awards and accolades. In 2005, the program received an Emmy nomination for their film "La Corrida," a documentary on the plight of illegal immigrants in "No Mans Land" just north of the U.S./Mexican border. In 2006, the program's student produced film Mocha, made history when it won a non-student category Emmy Award. This is the first high school to be able to claim this achievement in Texas. Most recently, the school was invited by the Sundance Institute

to attend the internationally recognized Sundance Film Festival to meet and network with Producers and Directors.

The famous actor and filmmaker Orson Welles once said that, "A film is never really good unless the camera is an eye in the head of a poet." The students at the Film School of San Antonio are poets that through film find their expression. Through their engagement with the program and the assistance of their dedicated teachers, the students at the Film School of San Antonio are able to give their poetic visions a reality.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to the program director George F. Ozuna; the school instructors: Pete Barcenez, Dagoberto Patlán, Daniel Garcia and Sharon Shuler; the school's students: Briana Baiz, Mercedes Casarez, Krysten Casias, Samuel Garcia, Michael Levine, Felix Perez and Raul Servin; and their families. Their work is inspiring. I am proud of their success and hope that film continues to bring them much personal satisfaction.

VAN JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL,

Van, WV, February 22, 2007.

Congressman NICK RAHALL,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL: We are the Senior Civics class of Van Jr/Sr High School in Boone County, West Virginia. We watched President Bush's State of the Union Address and the Democratic Response. We are writing to you to discuss our concerns within the government today. Our Civics class consists of all male students, who (if the draft is enabled) would be sent to fight for a cause we don't understand.

Our primary concern is the war in Iraq. We are in favor of fighting terrorism, but America went into Iraq under false pretenses. We now know that Iraq had nothing to do with the attack on 9/11. We believe that the reason we went to Iraq is to gain a stronghold on the oil fields. We are trading blood for oil. We have strong feeling that America should have never invaded Iraq because our presence there is breeding more terrorism around the world. We are giving terrorists a common foe to retaliate against. We are incubating more hatred from other terrorists and now giving them a reason to unite hence the statement, "The enemy of my enemy is my ally".

We highly oppose the sending of 21,000 more soldiers to Iraq. Instead, we must start bringing soldiers home, because who is going to protect us while our soldiers are fighting overseas? Some soldiers are serving their third tour of duty against their will, commitments of the Backdoor Draft. America should have never gone further than Afghanistan. We have forgotten about Osama Bin Laden in our rush to topple Saddam Hussein.

All we are doing right now is debating while our soldiers are loosing their lives. Let us quit talking and do something! Young lives and futures depend on your actions. Please take into consideration the lives you can save instead of destroy.

Another of our concerns is the way our economy is being affected by the war. Just think of what 2.9 trillion dollars could have done for this nation. Then look at this figure, oil companies are making an annual profit of 39.5 billion dollars while many people in this nation are suffering in poverty. They are suffering because in today's society one cannot support a family on the minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour. Only three percent of Americans today are financially well off. The outsourcing of good paying American jobs is causing our unemployment rate to rise. If this trend continues, poverty will become more common and our society will become even more unstable.